

Regular Session, 2005

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 18

BY SENATOR MARIONNEAUX

CONDOLENCES. Expresses condolences upon the death of Staff Sergeant Robert J. Mogensen.

A RESOLUTION

To express the sincere and heartfelt condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana to the family of United States Army Staff Sergeant Robert J. Mogensen upon his death in Operation Enduring Freedom.

WHEREAS, it is with the deepest regret and most profound sorrow that the Senate has learned of the tragic death in combat of Staff Sergeant Mogensen; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Mogensen was a native of Leesville prior to enlisting in the Army and beginning his military service that would take him far from his home state and onto foreign shores in his country's war on terror; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Mogensen had wanted to serve his country in the most effective manner possible, so he volunteered for the toughest and most extensive military training that the United States Army has to offer, the Special Forces, and afterward was proud to wear the distinctive headgear that all Special Forces wear, the coveted Green Beret; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Mogensen followed in the long tradition of all Special Forces by training in a wide range of military disciplines and becoming expert in several areas of expertise; and

WHEREAS, Special Forces are elite, specialized military units, comprised of

1 carefully selected, highly trained, intensely motivated and extremely proficient soldiers,
2 serving as the tip of the arrow of the United States in its fight to destroy the forces of terror;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Mogensen, as a member of 1st Battalion, 3rd Special
5 Forces Group, Airborne, distinguished himself greatly in the course of the Operation
6 Enduring Freedom missions he participated in, often finding himself in harm's way and
7 facing heavily-armed and well-trained terrorist forces; and

8 WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Mogensen and his fellow soldiers exhibited a steely
9 resolve and a deadly determination in their efforts to find, fix, and destroy elements of the
10 Al Quida terrorist network responsible for attacking this nation on September 11, 2001; and

11 WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Mogensen, as part of the 1st Battalion, conducted himself
12 during these perilous missions with great courage and uncommon valor, always placing the
13 safety and needs of his men ahead of his own needs; and

14 WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Mogensen, was 26 years old when he found himself on
15 such a mission on May 29, 2004, when the vehicle in which he was traveling came under
16 enemy attack, with several improvised explosive devices in his path on the roadway; and

17 WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Mogensen, along with a Special Forces Captain and a
18 Navy Seal, were all mortally wounded when their vehicle swerved to avoid one device and
19 struck another device outside of Kandahar where their base of operations was located.

20 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana
21 does hereby express a profound sense of loss and heartfelt condolences from a grateful state
22 and nation to the family of United States Army Staff Sergeant Robert J. Mogensen for his
23 death in the Afghan Theater of Operations and Operation Enduring Freedom.

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
25 family of Staff Sergeant Mogensen.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Heyward Jeffers.

DIGEST

Expresses condolences upon the death of U.S. Army Staff Sergeant Robert J. Mogensen.